

bird to have been drinking. After seven minutes wading the adult Brahminy Kite flew and landed near the immature. The immature took off immediately, circled the bay and was then joined by the adult. Rand & Gilliard (1967, *The Handbook of New Guinea Birds*) recorded one Brahminy Kite that had eaten many small fish, but considered they may have been carrion. Coates (1985, *The Birds of Papua New Guinea. Vol 1.*) reports that Brahminy Kites are expert at snatching fish from just below the surface, but there are no PNG records of Brahminy Kites fishing in the manner described above. *Address: 7 Newtown, Codicote, Herts SG4 8UG, U.K.*

Birds feeding on Hawk Moths. Roger K Hicks. Throughout the period just before the onset of the wet season large numbers of Hawk Moths (and other insects) are attracted to the security lights around my house on Matorogo Point, Port Moresby, National Capital District. During the day these Hawk Moths "roost" in nearby trees, usually under a leaf, or in the shaded nooks on the outside of the house. In the third week of December 1990, when conditions were hot, humid and calm, numerous Hawk Moths of two species were noted around the house. This abundance of prey was exploited by several species of birds. A family of Torresian Crows *Corvus orru*, two adults and two fledged young, visited the roof of the house each morning between 05:30 and 07:30. The young were readily identified by their dark eyes and pinkish gape. I assume all the birds were feeding on insects that had been attracted by the security lights but the prey was only identified on three occasions. Each of these times a young bird was noted holding a Hawk Moth in its bill. The young bird transferred the Hawk Moth from its bill to its feet where it was held against the bird's perch while the Hawk Moth's wings were stripped and discarded before the body was eaten. On one occasion the Hawk Moth escaped while the young Torresian Crow was transferring it from bill to foot. Two Pheasant Coucals *Centropus phasianus*, not usually recorded in the garden, were observed in trees near the house where the Hawk Moths "roosted", but I could not confirm they were feeding on the moths. They were noted on the ground beneath the security lights where they fed on Hawk Moths that had come to grief during the night. Up to four White-breasted Wood-Swallows *Artamus leucorhynchus* snatched moths from trees near the house. The wood-swallows picked the moths, and other insects, from the foliage with their feet as they flew past. Their prey was then manipulated and passed from feet to bill while in flight. Some of the moths taken in this way may have been Hawk Moths, but I cannot be certain and most seemed too small. A dragon *Lophognathus temporalis* was also noted feeding on damaged Hawk Moths on the ground. *Address: 7 Newtown, Codicote, Herts, SG4 8UG, U.K.*

RECENT OBSERVATIONS JULY - SEPTEMBER 1990

COMPILED BY ROGER HICKS

All observations refer to the Port Moresby area unless the site name is followed by an abbreviated province name.

Contributors: Ian Burrows (IB); Field Guides Incorporated tour group (FGI); Mike Hopkins (MH); Roger Hicks (RH); Edel Kraayo (EK); John Silcock (JS); Geoff Smith (GS); Len Tolhurst (LT); Niklas Wahlberg (NW).

Abbreviations: ad = adult; bp = breeding plumage; Cen = Central Province; CGO = Central Government Offices; EHP = Eastern Highlands Province; ESP = East Sepik Province; Fm = Farm; I = Island; imm = immature; juv = juvenile; L = Lake; Mad = Madang Province; Mor = Morobe Province; NP = National Park; NSP = North Solomons Province; Oro = Northern Province; PAC = Pacific Adventist College; R = River; Rd = Road; SHP = Southern Highlands Province; SP = settling ponds; UPNG = University of PNG campus; Wes = Western Province; WHP = Western Highlands Province.

Dwarf Cassowary	<i>Casuarus bennetti</i>
28 Sep, 1 ad and a third-grown young, Varirata Lookout trail, Varirata NP (RH).	
Australasian Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus novaehollandiae</i>
28 Sep, 2 full-grown imm, PAC (RH).	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
1 Jul, 2 in bp, Alexishafen ponds, Mad (RH).	
Great Frigatebird	<i>Fregata minor</i>
9 Sep, 1 male & 1 female, with Lesser Frigatebirds, flying south over Papa (RH).	
Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>
9 Aug, 3, Loloata I (EK); 9 Sep, c.15, flying south over Papa (RH).	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
16-19 Aug, 1, Bensbach, Wes, (FGI).	
Great-billed Heron	<i>Ardea sumatrana</i>
16-19 Aug, 1-2, Bensbach, Wes (FGI).	
Cattle Egret	<i>Egretta ibis</i>
2 Jul, c.20, Madang airport, Mad (RH); 9 Sep, c.100, with cattle, Fairfax grasslands (RH).	
White-faced Heron	<i>Egretta novaehollandiae</i>
17 Sep, 1, Rouna No. 3 Power Station, the only record of the year so far (RH).	
Sacred Ibis	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>
28 Sep, 1, Ilimo Fm (RH).	
Black-winged Kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>
10 Aug, 1, Mount Hagen airfield, WHP (FGI).	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
31 Jul, 1, Ilimo Fm (NW).	
Spotted Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus spilonotus</i>
11 Aug, 1, Tari Gap, SHP (EK).	

- Grey Goshawk
30 Jul, 1, Tabubil, Wes (JS); 2 Sep, 1 dark phase, Ower's Corner (NW).
Accipiter novaehollandiae
- Meyer's Goshawk
1-5 Aug, 3 light phase birds at 3 different localities in Tari area, SHP (FGI).
Accipiter meyerianus
- New Guinea Harpy-Eagle
14 Aug, 1, Tari Gap, SHP (NW).
Harpyopsis novaeguineae
- Australian Kestrel
15 Aug, 1, nr Daru airport, Wes (FGI); 9 Sep, 1 female, Fairfax grasslands - first record in Port Moresby area for some time (RH).
Falco cenchroides
- Australian Hobby
19 Aug, 1, PAC (RH & LT).
Falco longipennis
- Green Pygmy-Goose
17 Jul, 2 in moult, PAC (RH).
Nettapus pulchellus
- Brown Quail
2 Sep, 3 coveys of 8, 5 & 6 birds, flushed, Ower's Corner Rd (NW).
Coturnix australis
- Chestnut Forest-Rail
1-5 Aug, 1 male watched foraging in cloud forest, Tari Gap, SHP (FGI).
Rallina rubra
- Bush-Hen
26 Aug, 2 ad & 1 half-grown juv seen well, at edge of lakes, Varirata NP (NW).
Amaurornis olivaceus
- Dusky Moorhen
28 Sep, 1 with 1 large young, PAC (RH).
Gallinula tenebrosa
- Comb-crested Jacana
28 Sep, 1 half-grown young which swam between lily pads, PAC (RH).
Irediparra gallinacea
- Australian Pratincole
7 Aug, Kiunga airstrip, Wes; 15 Aug, Daru airstrip, Wes; 16-19 Aug, Bensbach floodplain, Wes; all observations of scattered individuals or pairs (all obs FGI).
Siltia isabella
- Ruddy Turnstone
15 Aug, 1, Daru, Wes (FGI).
Arenaria interpres
- Eastern Curlew
15 Aug, 2, Daru, Wes (FGI).
Numenius madagascariensis
- Whimbrel
11 Sep, not positively identified, but size and shape suggest this species. The first record of migrants returning from the north in the Lae area (GS).
Numenius phaeopus
- Wood Sandpiper
17 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).
Tringa glareola
- Common Greenshank
17 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH).
Tringa nebularia
- Curlew Sandpiper
22 Sep, 1, Moitaka SP (RH); after no records at all for this species in 1989.
Calidris ferruginea
- Rufous Woodcock
1-5 Aug, 1 seen briefly, in moss forest, Tari Gap, SHP (FGI); 11 Aug, 1, Tari Gap, SHP (EK).
Scolopax saturata
- Whiskered Tern
16 Sep, c.80, Moitaka SP (RH).
Chlidonias hybrida
- Gull-billed Tern
9 Sep, 1, L Iaraguma (RH); 16 Sep, 6, Moitaka SP (RH).
Gelochelidon nilotica
- Common Tern
9 Aug, 4, Loloata I (EK).
Sterna hirundo

- Great Cuckoo-Dove
16-19 Aug, 2, Bensbach area, Wes (FGI). This is the second recent record from the Trans-Fly for this species (the other was in Dec '89). It was not previously thought to occur there (Coates 1985).
Reinwardtoena reinwardtii
- Thick-billed Ground-Dove
16 Aug, 1, flushed from ground and walking away hurriedly, Varirata NP (FGI). This is the first record for Varirata National Park.
Gallilumba salamonis
- Wompoo Fruit-Dove
17 Sep, 1 incubating 1 egg in a flimsy nest, Varirata NP (MH).
Ptilinopus magnificus
- Orange-bellied Fruit-Dove
3 Aug, 1, Karawari Lodge, ESP (EK).
Ptilinopus iozonus
- Papuan Mountain Pigeon
30 Jul, 30+, requiring avoiding action by helicopter, nr Ningerum, Wes (JS).
Gymnophaps albertisii
- Red-flanked Lorikeet
7-9 Aug, 1 female carrying nesting material, Kiunga, Wes (FGI).
Chamosyna placentis
- Little Red Lorikeet
1 Jul, a feeding party of c.12 (with Rainbow Lorikeets, Red-flanked Lorikeets, Double-eyed Fig-Parrots, Papuan Black Myzomela and Tawny-breasted Honeyeaters) nr the Raggiana Bridge on the Gawam Rd, Mor. This is at an altitude of c.3-400 m, c.250 m lower than this species' normal range and the first record for this area (GS).
Chamosyna pulchella
- Papuan Lorikeet
13 Aug, feeding *Schleffera* sp., Tari Gap, SHP (NW).
Chamosyna papou
- Palm Cockatoo
17-19 Aug, 1 female along Bensbach R and 1 male nr Wando, Wes (FGI).
Probosciger aterrimus
- Little Corella
17-19 Aug, at least 1, nr Wando, Wes (FGI).
Cacatua pastinator
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
30 Jul, 2, Tabubil, Wes & considerable numbers seen from helicopter between Tabubil & Kiunga, Wes, most nr Kiunga (JS).
Cacatua galerita
- Double-eyed Fig-Parrot
1 Jul, nr Raggiana Bridge on the Gawam Rd, Mor (GS).
Cyclopsitta diophthalma
- Large Fig-Parrot
7-9 Aug, Kiunga, Wes (FGI).
Psittaculirostris desmarestii
- Brehm's Tiger-Parrot
14 Aug, 1 male, Tari Gap, SHP (NW).
Psittacella brehmii
- Blue-collared Parrot
5 Aug, Talair Twin Otter nearly collided with a flock of c.300 m above valley, nr Tabubil, Wes (FGI); 2 Sep, a few, Ower's Corner (NW).
Geoffroyus simplex
- Vulturine Parrot
31 Jul, 2, flying over Tabubil township, Wes (JS).
Psitttrichas fulgidus
- Papuan King-Parrot
2 Sep, 5, Ower's Corner (NW).
Alisterus chloropterus
- Channel-billed Cuckoo
7-9 Aug, Kiunga, Wes (FGI).
Scythrops navaehollandiae
- Marbled Frogmouth
16 Aug, Varirata NP (FGI).
Podargus ocellatus
- Papuan Frogmouth
19 Aug, pr nesting in same place as earlier this year, PAC (LT).
Podargus papuensis

White-throated Nightjar 16-18 Aug, 2-3 seen each evening, Bensbach, Wes (FGI).	<i>Eurostopus mystacalis</i>
Papuan Spine-tailed Swift 2 Sep, Macdonald's Corner (NW).	<i>Mearnsia novaeguineae</i>
Moustached Tree-Swift 5-7 Aug, common, Ok Tedi valley, Wes (FGI).	<i>Hemiprocne mystacea</i>
Sacred Kingfisher 31 Jul, 1 juv, very definitely brown/buff shading with blue-green coming through on the head, Tabubil, Wes (JS); 5 Aug, 1, Karawari R, ESP (EK).	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>
Beach Kingfisher 1 Jul, 1, CRI, Madang, Mad (RH).	<i>Halcyon saurophaga</i>
Blue-tailed Bee-eater 19 Aug, > 6 nest burrows on building site at PAC (LT & RH).	<i>Merops ornatus</i>
Blyth's Hornbill 30 Jul, 2, seen separately from helicopter, c.20 km S of Tabubil, Wes (JS); 4 Aug, 2, flying across river, nr Arafundi, ESP (EK).	<i>Rhyticeros plicatus</i>
Blue-breasted Pitta 29 Jul, 1 imm, Circuit trail, Varirata NP (JS).	<i>Pitta erythrogaster</i>
Noisy Pitta 17-19 Aug, several heard and 1 seen briefly, Bensbach, Wes (FGI).	<i>Pitta versicolor</i>
Pacific Swallow 26 Aug, flooding of basement at CGO Waigani by faulty air-conditioning unit and subsequent pumping out has meant there is a lot of standing water around the office. The Pacific Swallows have taken advantage of this and are collecting mud to build nests. Currently 5 being built on CGO (RH); 16 Sep, 1, fledged juv with yellow gape, Moitaka SP (RH).	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
Tree Martin 11 Aug, Nadzab, Mor (FGI); 17-19 Aug, Bensbach R, Wes (FGI); 9 Sep, c.20, L Iaraguma (RH); 16 Sep, c.30, Moitaka SP (RH).	<i>Hirundo nigricans</i>
Richard's Pipit 20 Aug, 1, Kundiawa airfield, Sim (NW).	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>
Cicadabird Aug, heard at Tabubil and Kiunga, Wes, Wau, Boana and Lae, Mor, and Varirata NP before being seen at Bensbach, Wes (FGI).	<i>Coracina tenuirostris</i>
Golden Cuckoo-Shrike 30 Jul, seen from helicopter, nr Ningerum, Wes (JS).	<i>Campochaera sloetii</i>
Papuan Whipbird 1-5 Aug, 1, possibly 2, Tari Gap, female-plumaged birds seen well by Jan Pierson (of FGI) and well enough to preclude anything known to occur in the mountains of PNG by Brett Whitney (also of FGI). The bird(s) was invariably on the ground or on branches in contact with the ground. It held its tail raised above the body and waved it around expressively (FGI).	<i>Androphobus viridis</i>
Painted Quail-Thrush 10 Aug, 1 male, Varirata NP (NW).	<i>Cinlosoma ajax</i>
Lesser Melampitta 16 Aug, 3, Tari Gap, SHP (NW).	<i>Melampitta lugubris</i>
Tawny Grassbird 30 Jul, at c.2000m, top of Ok Tedi mine site, Wes (JS).	<i>Megalurus timoriensis</i>

Wallace's Fairy-Wren 5-7 Aug, pair foraging in undergrowth near forest edge, Tabubil, Wes (FGI).	<i>Sipodotus wallacii</i>
Orange-crowned Fairy-Wren 14 Aug, small party, below Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (NW).	<i>Clytomyias insignis</i>
Golden Monarch 25 Aug, 1 male, Musgrave R (NW).	<i>Monarcha chrysomela</i>
Broad-billed Flycatcher 15 Aug, a <i>Myiagra</i> flycatcher, seen in the mangroves at Daru, Wes, was probably this species (FGI).	<i>Myiagra ruficollis</i>
Restless Flycatcher 17-19 Aug, 1 pair, seen well, Bensbach R, Wes (FGI).	<i>Myiagra inquieta</i>
Jacky Winter 9 Sep, 3, L Iaraguma.	<i>Microeca leucophaea</i>
Lemon-bellied Flycatcher 25 Aug, nesting in Subitana rubber plantation (NW).	<i>Microeca flavigaster</i>
Yellow-legged Flycatcher 8 Aug, Varirata NP (NW).	<i>Microeca griseiceps</i>
Garnet Robin 16 Aug, 1 male, Tari Gap, SHP (NW).	<i>Eugerygone rubra</i>
White-winged Robin 13 Aug, pair seen well in Wau-Bulolo area, Mor (FGI).	<i>Paneothello sigillatus</i>
Mottled Whistler 5-7 Aug, 1, at c.1300 m, nr Tabubil is the lowest record to date (FGI).	<i>Rhagologus leucostigma</i>
Mangrove Golden Whistler 15 Aug, mangroves at Daru, Wes (FGI).	<i>Pachycephala melanura</i>
Sclater's Whistler 12 Aug, 1 male, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (NW).	<i>Pachycephala soror</i>
Rufous Whistler 29 Jul, Varirata NP (JS).	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>
Black Sittella 13 Aug, large flock, nr Bailey bridge, Tari Gap, SHP (NW).	<i>Daphoenositta miranda</i>
Obscure Berrypecker 2 Sep, a female-plumaged berrypecker with yellow pectoral tufts, tail unfortunately not seen, may have been this species, Ower's Corner (NW).	<i>Melanocharis arfakiana</i>
Streaked Berrypecker 13 Aug, Ilaru pass, Mor (FGI).	<i>Melanocharis striativentris</i>
Spotted Berrypecker 13 Aug, pr, Ilaru pass, Mor (FGI).	<i>Rhamphocharis crassirostris</i>
Yellow-bellied Sunbird 9 Sep, pr nest building, female seen carrying nesting material while male stayed nr nest, Papa (RH).	<i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>
Pygmy Honeyeater 25 Aug, many in an <i>Albizia</i> tree, Musgrave R (NW); 26 Aug, several, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (NW).	<i>Oedistoma pygmaeum</i>
Red Myzomela 25 Aug, 1 male, feeding in <i>Albizia</i> tree, Musgrave R (NW).	<i>Myzomela cruentata</i>
Red-headed Myzomela 15 Aug, in mangroves, Daru, Wes (FGI).	<i>Myzomela erythrocephala</i>
Obscure Honeyeater 7-9 Aug, Kiunga, Wes (FGI).	<i>Lichenostomus obscurus</i>

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|--|---------------------------------|
| Spotted Honeyeater
25 Aug, 2 in <i>Albizia</i> tree, Musgrave R (NW) | <i>Xanthotis polygramma</i> |
| Sooty Melidictes
14 Aug, 1, Tari Gap, SHP (NW) | <i>Melidictes fuscus</i> |
| Brown-backed Honeyeater
9 Sep, pr nest building, L Iaraguma (RH) | <i>Ramsayornis modestus</i> |
| Grey-headed Mannikin
15 Jul, many juv, PAC (EK); 17 Jul, many juv & 1 ad carrying nesting material, PAC (RH) | <i>Lonchura caniceps</i> |
| Chestnut-breasted Mannikin
17 Jul, many juv, PAC (RH) | <i>Lonchura castaneothorax</i> |
| Mountain Firetail
11 Aug, 1, Tari Gap, SHP (EK) | <i>Oreostruthus fuliginosus</i> |
| Crimson Finch
17-19 Aug, flock of ad & imm, Bensbach, Wes (FGI) | <i>Neochmia phaeton</i> |
| House Sparrow
3 Sep, 2 males & 3 females, feeding on seeding grasses, Waigani (RH); only fifth PNG record for this species with four in last four years. | <i>Passer domesticus</i> |
| Olive-backed Oriole
17-19 Aug, Bensbach, Wes (FGI) | <i>Oriolus sagittatus</i> |
| Torrent-Lark
10 Aug, 2, Huli scenic trail waterfall, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (EK) | <i>Grallina bruijni</i> |
| Great Wood-Swallow
30 Jul, common, Tabubil, Wes (JS); 13 Aug, 1, Banari Rd, nr Tari, SHP (EK) | <i>Artamus maximus</i> |
| Flame Bowerbird
7-9 Aug, 4 ad males, Kiunga, Wes (FGI) | <i>Sericulus aureus</i> |
| Crested Bird of Paradise
12 Aug, 1 female, grounds of Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (NW) | <i>Cnemophilus macgregorii</i> |
| Loria's Bird of Paradise
15 Aug, 1 female, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (NW) | <i>Cnemophilus loriae</i> |
| Short-tailed Paradigalla
15 Aug, 1, Ambua Lodge, Tari, SHP (NW) | <i>Paradigalla brevicauda</i> |
| Magnificent Riflebird
15 Jul, 1 male, creeping along a tree trunk, Varirata NP (EK); 26 Aug, 1 male, Boundary trail, Varirata NP (NW); 2 Sep, 1 male on dead tree, Ower's Corner (NW) | <i>Ptiloris magnificentus</i> |
| Black Sicklebill
13 Aug, 1 male, Banari Rd, nr Tari, SHP (NW & EK) | <i>Epimachus fastosus</i> |
| Grey Crow
30 Jul, c 6, Ok Menga dam, Wes (JS); 31 Jul, Lower Ok Tedi bridge, Wes (JS) | <i>Corvus tristis</i> |
| Torresian Crow
9 Sep, 1 feeding on road-killed Carpet Python, nr Papa (RH) | <i>Corvus orru</i> |

MAP OF PLACES MENTIONED IN THIS ISSUE

(Additional to those shown on map on page 98 of Muruk 3.2)

